



Washoe County Trails Program

CSD-Parks and Open Space

Washoe County Trails Program

Christina Thayer – WC's first
Trail Program Coordinator
2022-current





CHRISTINA THAYER

18 + Years as a Trail Professional

B.S –Forestry & Natural Resource Mgmt.

M.S-Outdoor Rec Management

Eastern Sierra Trails Coalition, Tahoe Fund,
Truckee Meadows Trails, Tahoe Pyramid
Trail, Take Care Tahoe, Sierra Nevada
Sustainable Recreation Partnership,
Professional Trail Builders Alliance

International Trails Summit (Reno 2023),
California Trails Conference (Tahoe 2024)
National Outdoor Recreation Conference
(Tahoe/Stateline 2024)

Truckee Meadows Trails Initiative: WC major stakeholder

MISSION

To work with community and agency partners to create a regional, sustainable, system trail network that enhances the quality of life for Truckee Meadows residents.

VISION

A healthy Truckee Meadows community connected by trails.

The Plans Primary Goals Are To:

- Create a regional trail network that is safe, accessible, expandable, effectively connected with on-street facilities, and improves access to community destinations and surrounding public lands.
- Ensure high quality and consistent user experiences on trails, across jurisdictional boundaries.
- Promote awareness of the Truckee Meadow's natural, cultural, and recreation resources and the important role that trails play in our community.

Major Plan Goals:

Create a regional trail network that is:

- Safe
- Expandable
- Effectively connected with on-street facilities
- Improves access to community destinations and public land

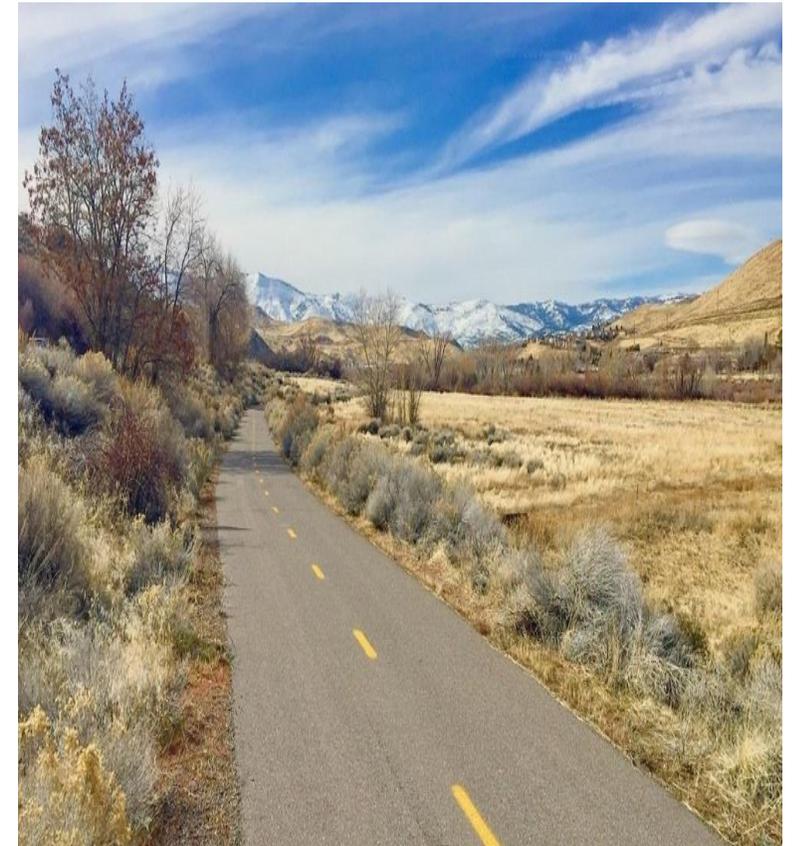
What Does a Trail Program Coordinator Do for WC?

- Work alongside park staff & planners to improve and enhance the County's trails and trail programs
- Plan for future trailheads, trails, and connectivity through the securement of easements and stakeholder collaboration
- Advise developers on trail planning needs
- Development of trail inventory data collection for asset essentials, budget needs, and accurate County mapping



What Does a Trail Program Coordinator Do for WC?

- Work to ensure environmental and cultural considerations are met
- Assist with the preparation of grant applications and administration
- Coordinate volunteer stewardship opportunities
- Plan, design, develop and construct new trails
- Implement trail maintenance and policy strategies



Addressing Trail Needs

- Trail signage, wayfinding, maps, kiosks & trailhead access
- User conflicts on multi-use trails and paths
 - Speeds on shared paths
 - Equestrian and bicycle interface
 - Dogs off leash



Slow Zone signs installed on Lakeshore Path (2022)

Addressing Trail Needs

- Maintenance of existing trails with staff, contractors, and volunteers
- Work to ensure safety, sustainability, and a culture of trail etiquette



Managing Conflict Example: Ebikes and Speed on multi-use Pathways

	 CLASS 1	 CLASS 2	 CLASS 3
Pedal Assist	✓	✓	✓
Throttle		✓	
Max Speed	20 mph	20 mph	28 mph

Working with land managers and municipalities to address:

- Advancing technology
- Education and Pilot Programs
- Code enforcement feasibility
- Innovative solutions



Chapter 95

SECTION 19. 95.180 Speed Limit. No person may drive a vehicle in a county park at a speed greater than **15 miles per hour**, except where otherwise posted.

SECTION 20. 95.190 Roads; Parking.

1. Motor vehicles shall be operated in county parks only on roads and in parking areas constructed or designated for motor vehicle use except where such areas have been officially designated for use by motor vehicles.
2. Automobiles, trailers, and other vehicles shall be parked only in designated parking areas in county parks.



Chapter 95

SECTION 21. Non-Motorized Vehicles 95.200 Bicycles and Other Operator-Propelled Vehicles.

1. No person may operate or ride a bicycle, electric bicycle as defined in Chapter 484B of NRS, scooter, skateboard or other operator-propelled vehicle or device in any county Page 9 of 18 park when the director has determined that conditions are unsafe or otherwise inappropriate for the operation of the vehicle or device and has issued an order prohibiting such activity.
2. **All persons must restrict speed and manner of operation of a bicycle, electric bicycle as defined in Chapter 484B of NRS, scooter, skateboard or other operator-propelled vehicle or device to a reasonable and prudent manner relative to terrain, prevailing conditions, equipment, personal capabilities, personal safety and the safety of all other park users.**



Chapter 95

SECTION 22. 95.210

Unauthorized Use of Trails. **It shall be unlawful for any person to:**

1. Operate any motorized vehicle, including, without limitation, motorcycles, trail bikes, or motorized bicycles upon any trail except as necessary to cross a street, driveway or access road intersection without authorization from the director or his/her designee;
2. Hold any event on any trail without authorization from the director or his/her designee; and
3. **Ride a bicycle, including an electric bicycle as defined in chapter 484B of NRS, on a designated off-street bicycle trail in a manner which is unsafe or which may be injurious to the rider or other persons. Where a speed limit has been designated and posted, the rider shall not operate the bicycle in excess of that speed.**

Solutions for Pathway Speed



Land and Recreation managers generally agree:

- Education over Enforcement is optimal
- Good trail design may eliminate trail conflict
- Sign pollution should be avoided. Use iconography messaging when possible
- Creating a “shared use” trail culture is possible and takes the creation of a stewardship community
- Code enforcement and improved road bike lanes are costly alternatives, though desirable management options

Volunteer Service Days – Monthly and As Needed



Collaborative Service Days with:

Truckee Meadows Trails, USFS, Biggest Little Trail Stewardship, and Sierra Trailworks

WC Volunteer Coordinator arranges groups such as: Tesla, Patagonia, & UNR

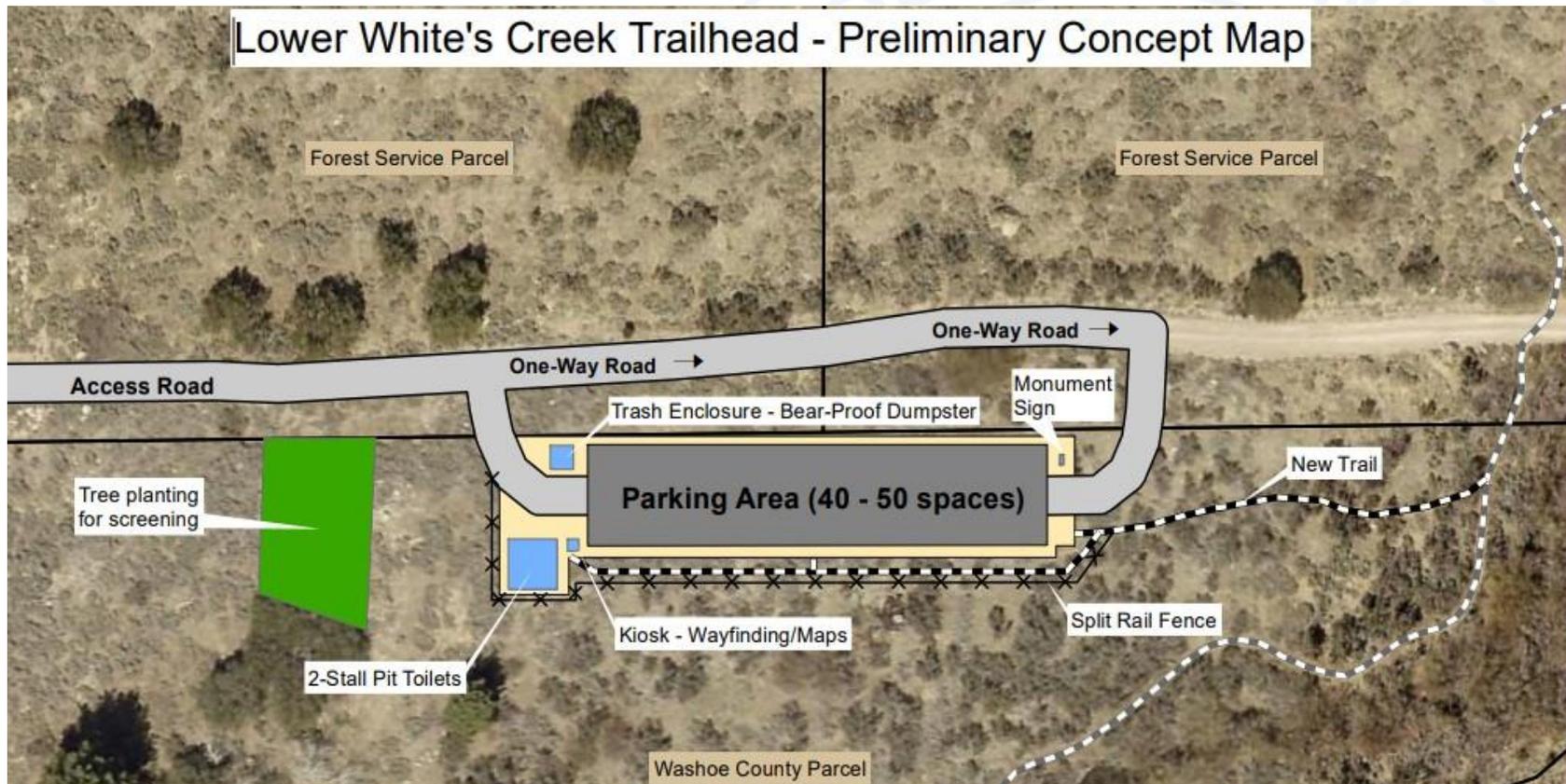
Whites Creek Trailhead and Trail Improvement Project



Work alongside Park Planner & Natural Resource Planner to:

- Apply for grant funding
- Coordinate with USFS & adjacent landowners
- Restore and enhance the Whites Creek Trail

Whites Creek Trailhead and Trail Improvement Project



- Mitigate parking congestion along busy road
- Provide trash and restroom
- Guide trail users to appropriate trail access points

Collaborative Projects

- Tahoe Pyramid Trail – Connecting Lake Tahoe to Pyramid Lake
- Tahoe East Shore Trail– Sand Harbor to Spooner Summit
- Historic Virginia Trail – Carson City to Tahoe Pyramid Trail
- Sierra Front Trail – Thomas Creek to Hunter Creek (via smaller segments)
- Virginia Range Trail – Hidden Valley Park to Geiger Grade
- Sun Valley Rim Trail – Surrounding North Reno and Sparks



Thank you

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